

Application No.: 09/111833

Case No.: 49360US015

Amendments to the Claims:

The following Listing of Claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-13 (canceled)

14. (currently amended) Electret filter media comprising a nonwoven web of thermoplastic nonconductive microfibers having trapped charge, said charge provided by (1) subjecting the nonwoven web to a corona treatment, followed by (2) impingement of jets of water or a stream of water droplets on the web at a pressure sufficient to provide the web with filtration enhancing electret charge and [(2)] (3) drying the web.

15. (currently amended) A resilient cup-shaped filtration face mask adapted to cover the nose and mouth of the wearer of the mask comprising a nonwoven web of thermoplastic nonconductive microfibers having trapped charge, said charge provided by (1) subjecting the nonwoven web to a corona treatment, followed by (2) impingement of jets of water or a stream of water droplets on the web at a pressure sufficient to provide the web with filtration enhancing electret charge and [(2)] (3) drying of the web.

16. (currently amended) A respirator mask assembly comprising a facepiece comprising at least on inhalation port, inhalation valve, and inhalation filter and at least one exhalation port and exhalation valve, a face seal supported by the face piece and a harness for supporting the facepiece on a wearers head, said inhalation filter comprising a nonwoven web of thermoplastic nonconductive microfibers having trapped charge, said charge provided by (1) subjecting the nonwoven web to a corona treatment, followed by (2) impingement of jets of water or a stream of water droplets on the web at a pressure sufficient to provide the web with filtration enhancing electret charge and [(2)] (3) drying of the web.

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17. (currently amended) A nonwoven web that contains nonconductive thermoplastic microfibers and that has an electric charge imparted thereto ~~obtainable~~ by the steps comprising: (1) subjecting the nonwoven web that contains nonconductive thermoplastic microfibers to a corona treatment, followed by (2) contacting [[a]] the nonconductive nonwoven web that contains thermoplastic microfibers with water in manner sufficient to provide the nonwoven web with filtration enhancing electret charge, and then [[((2))]] (3) drying the nonwoven web.

18. (previously presented) The product of claim 17, wherein the thermoplastic microfibers are polypropylene microfibers, poly(4-methyl-1-pentene) microfibers, or blends thereof.

19. (currently amended) The product of claim[[s]] 17[[-18]] wherein the thermoplastic microfibers comprise polypropylene and poly(4-methyl-1-pentene).

20. (canceled)